

- SHUFELDT, R. W. The chipmunk. *Country Life*, vol. 35, no. 6, pp. 98 and 102. April, 1919. (Notes on *Tamias striatus*.)
- SURBER, THADDEUS. The Pine County Game Refuge as a playground. *Fins, Feathers, and Fur* (Official Bulletin, Minn. Game and Fish Dept.), no. 18, pp. 1-4. June, 1919. (Notes on game and other mammals in Minnesota.)
- SURBER, THADDEUS. Additions to the mammalian fauna of Minnesota. *Fins, Feathers, and Fur*, no. 18, p. 6. June, 1919. (*Reithrodontomys megalotis dychei* and *Blarina parva*.)
- THOMAS, OLDFIELD. On small mammals from "Otro Cerro," northeastern Rioja, collected by Sr. L. Budin. *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 9, vol. 3, pp. 489-500. May, 1919. (Nine new species of Neotropical mammals.)
- THOMAS, OLDFIELD. On a small collection of mammals from Lumbo, Mozambique. *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 9, vol. 4, pp. 29-34. July, 1919. (New *Helogale*, *Paraxerus*, and *Steatomys* from Portuguese East Africa.)
- THOMAS, OLDFIELD. A new species of *Euneomys* from Patagonia. *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 9, vol. 4, pp. 127-128. September, 1919. (*E. dabbenei* sp. nov. from Santa Cruz.)
- THOMAS, OLDFIELD. List of mammals from the highlands of Jujuy, North Argentina, collected by Sr. E. Budin. *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 9, vol. 4, pp. 128-135. September, 1919. (New forms of *Euneomys*, *Hesperomys*, *Eligmodontia*, *Abracoma*, *Lagidium*, and *Galea*.)
- THOMAS, OLDFIELD. Two new rodents from Tartagal, Salta, N. Argentina. *Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, ser. 9, vol. 4, pp. 154-156. September, 1919. (*Akodon tartareus* and *Ctenomys sylvanus*, spp. nov.)

EDITORIAL COMMENT

The American Society of Mammalogists was founded at Washington, D. C., April 3, 1919. After much preliminary work, the committee appointed to consider plans for the organization of such a society issued a call for a meeting on April 3 and 4, 1919, at the National Museum. Over 250 favorable responses were received before April 3, and sixty persons from many parts of the United States and Canada were present for the opening meeting on that day. Plans for the Society were perfected, officers elected, committees formed, and by-laws and rules were adopted. The objects of the Society were declared to be "the promotion of the interests of mammalogy by holding meetings, issuing a serial or other publications, aiding research, and engaging in such other activities as may be deemed expedient." Systematic work, life history and habits of mammals, evolution, palæontology, anatomy, and every phase of technical and popular mammalogy are to come within the scope of the society and its publications. New members and advance subscriptions for the *Journal* have been steadily received since the organization meeting and the permanent success of the Society and its publications seems assured.

One of the principal objects of the Society is the publication of the *Journal of Mammalogy*. It is aimed to make this journal indispensable to all workers in every branch of mammalogy and of value to every person interested in mammals, be he systematist, palæontologist, anatomist, museum or zoological

garden man, sportsman, big game hunter, or just plain naturalist. Toward this end the help of each member and friend of the society is urged. General articles on mammals, recent and fossil, are solicited for publication, and authoritative papers on all branches of the study can be used. Papers of general interest on life-histories, distribution, and habits are particularly needed, in order that the Journal may not be overbalanced with purely technical matter. It is comparatively easy to get manuscripts of systematic papers, but those members of the Society who are active in other branches of the study must help if the Journal is to be of interest to all. The departments reserved for General Notes and Correspondence can be made especially interesting. There are hundreds of good "general notes" of value if members will take the time to write them up for publication. The Committee on Publications will gladly receive any suggestions for the improvement of the Journal.

Each member is requested to endeavor to obtain new members for the Society and subscriptions from institutions and libraries where full sets will eventually be needed. Obviously there can be no "free list" for such a publication until it is well on its feet, and the early numbers of biological publications have a way of becoming in a short time excessively rare and difficult to obtain. Take your copy to the authorities in charge of libraries and institutions and urge their subscriptions, to begin with the first number. The fee for Life Membership is seventy-five dollars, and several have been elected to this class.

Members of the Society are indebted to Mr. Ernest Thompson Seton for the drawing of the prong-horn antelope for the front cover decoration. Mr. Seton is an enthusiastic supporter of the new Society, has qualified for Life Membership, and promises some illustrated articles for future numbers of the Journal. He has recently been honored by La Société nationale d'Acclimatation de France for his successful researches in the breeding of fur-bearing animals and has received the Silver Medal. The award was decided upon in 1914, but on account of the war the presentation was postponed. The medal bears the date of 1918, and is the first official French Peace Decoration received by an American since the signing of the armistice. The French authorities see in fur farming an opportunity for crippled soldiers. Mr. Seton's experiments during the past ten years or more have been chiefly with minks, martens, foxes, and skunks.

One of the first acts of the Society after organization, was to elect as an Honorary Member Dr. J. A. Allen, of the American Museum of Natural History, New York. Doctor Allen was the only person elected to this class.

The Annual Meeting of the American Society of Mammalogists for 1920 will be held in New York City at a date to be determined later by the Council.

So many systematic mammalogists believe in the "test of intergradation" as the only criterion for the recognition of subspecies, that some interesting correspondence in the Journal should result from Doctor Merriam's paper in this issue. The opinion in this matter is pretty deeply grounded in the minds of the majority of American workers and is no doubt in a great measure due to the definite stand taken by the committee which framed the original A. O. U. Code of Nomenclature. The remarks of this committee under Canon XI were to the effect that "the kind or quality, not the degree or quantity, of difference of one

organism from another determines its fitness to be named trinomially rather than binomially. . . . In a word, *intergradation* is the touchstone of trinomialism." The later A. O. U. committee, which prepared the Revised Edition of the Code, accepted these remarks without change, but added that "two kinds of intergradation, however, may be recognized; (1) ordinary or geographic intergradation, and (2) intergradation due to individual variation in forms inhabiting isolated areas." Doctor Merriam is of course right in his statement that intergradation is often assumed rather than proved. But at any rate the author of a revision, by the use of the trinomial, can show that he *believes* that intergradation does take place as indicated; and as he has given the group close study and not infrequently has examined a very large amount of material, his opinion on the matter would seem to have a certain definite value to others.

—N. H.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF MAMMALOGISTS

BY-LAWS AND RULES ADOPTED APRIL 3, 1919

BY-LAWS

Article I. Name and Objects

Sec. 1. This society shall be known as the American Society of Mammalogists.

Sec. 2. The object of the Society shall be the promotion of the interests of mammalogy by holding meetings, issuing a serial or other publications, aiding research, and engaging in such other activities as may be deemed expedient.

Article II. Membership

Sec. 1. The Society shall consist of members, honorary members, and patrons.

Sec. 2. Any person may become a member of the Society upon recommendation of two members and election at the next annual stated meeting, or by special election at other times by a two-thirds vote of the Council, each Councilor having been given thirty days notice. A member is entitled to vote for all officers and to receive the serial publication of the Society.

Sec. 3. Honorary members shall be elected by a majority vote of the Society upon unanimous recommendation of the Council in recognition of distinguished services to mammalogy. They shall be exempt from all dues and shall be entitled to all privileges of members except that they shall not be eligible to office or to membership on the Council.

Sec. 4. Any person upon payment of one thousand dollars to the Society may, upon recommendation of the Council, be elected a patron and shall be entitled to all the privileges of a member, shall receive all publications of the Society, and shall be exempt from membership fees.